
From: Collette Saunders <[REDACTED]>
Sent: September 21, 2018 2:15 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel; Justice Minister; markfurey.mla@eastlink.ca
Subject: Bill 27 Animal Protection Act

Dear Mark Furey,

I am writing to give my full support to Bill 27 Animal Protection Act and to ask that the Law Amendments Committee, and MLAs, support the bill as well.

This Bill offers long needed protection to animals, and very necessary assistance to our understaffed and overworked animal control personnel. Ask any of those officers how many times they have responded to situations where an animal is in dire conditions, only to be tied up in bureaucratic/legal red tape that slows or prevents the help the animal desperately needs. Bill 27 will allow them to act in a timely way, for the good of the animal.

On September 17, I listened to presenters voicing their opinions (and a lot of opposition) to the passing of this Bill. I was disheartened to hear breeders of purebreds talk at length about how the proposed legislation could potentially impact their financial enterprises. They are more concerned about money than the pain and suffering inflicted on animals to make them conform to physical standards required by purchasers. They seem to have missed the point that the Act is for the protection of animals, not the protection of business income. They also spoke long and loudly about the power that would be granted to the SPCA. If they are ethical breeders, why would they fear oversight? And, as clearly stated by the SPCA representative in attendance, there would need to be a legitimate complaint to initiate an investigation; there is much too much work to be done for animals in distress for the SPCA to arbitrarily start investigating clean, well-run, ethical establishments. It would seem that the breeders in attendance feel that they should be above the law, and not accountable to anyone for the welfare of the animals in their care.

Nova Scotia has been a leader in animal welfare recently, in our support for rescue, TNR programs and the focus on banning harmful practices such as declawing. Please help us to keep the momentum going; help us to move in a positive direction, for the good of the animals. Please support Bill 27.

Thank you for your time,

Collette Saunders

[REDACTED], Halifax.

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